

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Finance Committee

April 20, 2010

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Time – 7:00P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Cindy Milne, S. Jon Stumpf, Mary O'Donoghue, Richard T. Howe, Paul Fortier, and Steve Stapinski.

Also present: Finance Director Anthony Torrisi, Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi, Conservation Commission member Alexandra Driscoll, Senior Planner Paul Materazzo and Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski.

### **TOWN YARD PRESENTATION**

Mr. Piantedosi presented a new Town Yard proposal for Articles 28 and 29 that included reasons for implementing the \$21.9M plan, historical information, contribution to the project by the Town Yard Task Force as well as financial information. It was noted that the average annual debt service would be \$1.7M and the average annual home owner cost would be \$124. Additionally, that there would be cost offset revenue potential.

Mr. Piantedosi's presentation was followed by a question and answer period for Committee and audience members. Mr. Piantedosi was asked if the Town needed the 274,300 square feet of space currently proposed rather than a lesser number. Mr. Piantedosi responded that smaller sites that were investigated were not necessarily less expensive and added the site at Dascomb Road also offered the potential to raise revenue.

Finance Committee member Steve Stapinski gave a presentation of alternative options for the Dascomb Road site plan. After lengthy discussion, Committee members agreed to hold on voting for Articles 28 and 29 at this time. There was consensus among Committee members that the Town Yard should be moved from Lewis Street, that the Dascomb Road site is a good choice but that the entire plan had not been sufficiently vetted before Town Meeting. Rather than financing the entire plan that included retrofitting the existing building at Dascomb Road, the option of acquiring only the property for \$15.8M was discussed.

Andover resident Mary Carbone voiced objection with the cost of the plan, adding that the current Town Yard facility on Lewis Street should have been better maintained. Mr. Piantedosi responded that the original Town Yard was built as a lawn shed that was never intended to withstand years of use and noted that it had been maintained correctly.

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty urged Committee members to listen to other alternatives noting that there had not been enough time to study the details of the plan. Selectman Stabile countered that this plan should be put before Town Meeting due to his concern that this opportunity may not be available if postponed.

The Finance Committee directed the Town Yard Task Force to return to the owners of the Dascomb Road property to discuss future availability of the property if the project were to be postponed for several months.

### **CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION**

Article 55 – Conservation Commission member Alexandra Driscoll reported that the trustees unanimously voted to approve Article 55 adding that the land was truly a jewel. She added that this acquisition would improve access to the property from the west side of Fosters Pond. Mr. Stapczynski added that the price of this land had been reduced from four years earlier. Ms. Driscoll assured Committee members that additional traffic on Willard Circle would not be an issue with the residents. Committee members agreed to further discuss Article 55 at their next meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **ARTICLE 4 – BUDGET**

A revised School budget number from School Business Manager Bernie Tuttle with the assistance of Mr. Torrisi was presented for Committee review. The original number of \$63,670,529 was reduced to \$61,888,421 with a total savings of \$2.7M. Details of the revisions were discussed. There was consensus among Committee members for agreement with the revised number; however, they decided to postpone their vote subsequent to the School Committee's vote.

The following votes were taken:

Line 21 – Greater Lawrence Technical High School

Steve Stapinski moved and Dick Howe seconded to recommend approval of the changes made to line 21. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Line 24 – Unemployment Compensation

Steve Stapinski moved and Dick Howe seconded to recommend approval of the changes made to line 24. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Line 26 – Health Insurance Fund

Steve Stapinski moved and Paul Fortier seconded to recommend approval of the changes made to line 26. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

### **OTHER FY2010 TOWN MEETING VOTES**

Article 5 – I move that Article 5 be approved as printed in the warrant in the amount of \$1,246,000 from taxation.

Dick Howe moved and Mary O'Donoghue seconded recommend approval of Article 5. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Article 6 – I move that the Town vote to transfer funds from the following 2009 Annual Town Meeting – Article 4 appropriations:

\$33,000 from General Government – Other Expenses

\$ 9,000 from Community, Elder & Youth Services – Other Expenses

\$32,000 from Plant & Facilities – Other Expenses

\$30,000 from Public Safety – Other Expenses  
\$85,000 from Public Works – Other Expenses  
\$46,000 from Sewer – Other Expenses  
\$52,000 from Water – Other Expenses  
\$13,000 from Library – Other Expenses

and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for General Government – Personal Services

Cindy Milne moved and Paul Fortier seconded to recommend approval of Article 6. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Article 17 – add words “from free cash”.

Steve Stapinski moved and Cindy Milne seconded to recommend approval of amending Article 17 to read “from free cash”. The motion passed 5-2.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Regular Finance Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 26, 2010  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
7:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT – 10:25 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Carolyn Lynch*  
Recording Secretary